

DREAMERS AND THE COLLEGE DREAM

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE ADMISION COUNSELING

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Sounding the Alarm

- ◆ 1 million undocumented students in the U.S. are under the age of 18. (Passel & Cohn, 2011)
- ◆ 40% of undocumented students ages 18-24 have not graduated from high school. (Passel & Cohn, 2009)
- ◆ Fewer than half of all undocumented adults ages 18-24 with a high school degree have attended any college. (Passel & Cohn, 2009)
- ◆ Less than 10% of undocumented students will enroll in college immediately after high school. (Gonzales, 2007)
- ◆ 8% of all children born in the U.S. are born to at least one undocumented parent. (Passel & Cohn, 2011)

Definition of Undocumented

A foreign national living in the United States who:

- ◆ Entered without inspection
- ◆ Entered with fraudulent documents
- ◆ Entered legally as a nonimmigrant but then violated the terms of status and remained in the United States without authorization

College Search Process

- ◆ Student identification
 - ◆ Create opportunities for self disclosure
 - ◆ Use inclusive language
 - ◆ Partner with ELL teachers
 - ◆ Educate teachers and staff



<http://lilysblackboard.org/dreamers/>

College Search Process

- ◆ Developing a college list
 - ◆ Friendly versus unfriendly states
 - ◆ Travel restrictions
 - ◆ Campus climate
 - ◆ Knowledgeable admission staff
 - ◆ Support on campus (student activities, residence life, counseling center, career development)

College Search Process

- ◆ Completing applications
 - ◆ On-line application challenges
 - ◆ Request for social security number
 - ◆ Citizenship question/coded as international
 - ◆ Paying application fee and/or utilizing fee waivers
 - ◆ Dilemma regarding disclosure of undocumented status

College Search Process

- ◆ Applying for financial aid and scholarships
 - ◆ Limited availability of institutional grant aid
 - ◆ Merit scholarship requirements
 - ◆ Challenges in determining financial need
 - ◆ Completion of financial aid forms
 - ◆ Tax information

College Search Process

- ◆ Selecting a major
 - ◆ Restrictions in choosing a major (licensure, certification, background checks) – DACA helps!
 - ◆ Balancing “wants” versus what is possible
 - ◆ Advising and career development support on campus



Deferred Action & Education

What is deferred action?

“Deferred action is a kind of administrative relief from deportation that has been around a long time. Through it, the Department of Homeland Security authorizes a non-U.S. citizen to temporarily remain in the U.S. The person may also apply for an employment authorization document (a “work permit”) for the period during which he or she has deferred action.”

National Immigration Law Center

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

DACA, an executive memo issued June 15, 2012, offers undocumented persons under the age of 31, meeting specific criteria, deferred action from deportation. According to the Migration Policy Institute, 1.76 million students may be eligible for DACA.



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Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) June 15, 2012

DEFERRED ACTION

- Must have arrived before age 16
- Must have applied before age 31
- Reside in the US since June 2007 to Present
- Requires one of the following:

- • Current enrollment in school
- • Completed GED or High School Diploma
- Honorably discharged veteran
- No felony convictions

An estimated 800,000 DACA eligible youth are enrolled in the K-12 system.

An estimated 350,000 unauthorized immigrants could be eligible by enrolling in school. Given the affordability and mission of open access, community colleges serve as the gateway to higher education for “Dreamers”.



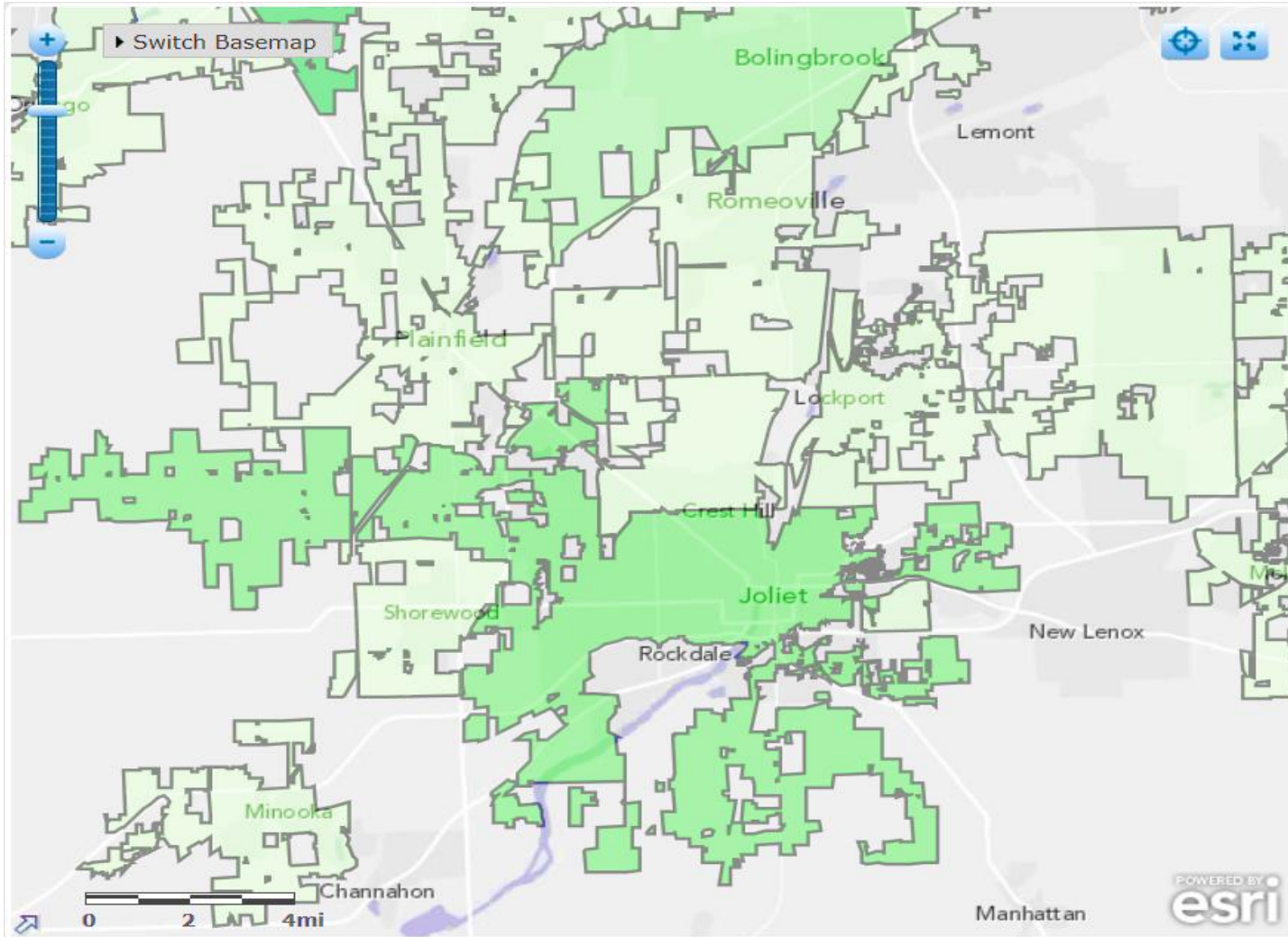
Source: Migration Policy Institute



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DACA Demographic Trends within District 525



- Cities / Towns
- House Districts
- Senate Districts

Legend

Cities / Towns

- 10 - 183
- 183 - 630
- 630 - 1,698
- 1,698 - 2,709
- 2,709 - 19,702

Source:
Immigration
Policy Center,
Rob Paral and
Associates,
Illinois Dept. of
Human Services



Dreamer Best Practices at Community Colleges

◆ Increase College Access

- ◆ Coordinate an outreach plan with CBO's, advocacy groups, churches, & schools.
- ◆ Promote dual credit, on-line resources & develop student community ambassadors.

◆ Make College Affordable

- ◆ Assist in the scholarship application process & increase private funding.

◆ Support College Readiness and Success

- ◆ Designate staff to advise the undocumented, provide training & involve parents.

Source: Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education



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Dreamer Best Practices at Community Colleges

◆ Offer Alternatives for Adult Learners

- ◆ Connect ABE/ESL to the credit-side through a case-management approach and adopt ABE/ESL bridge courses.

◆ Improve College Retention and Completion

- ◆ Promote safe zones & empower immigrant student leadership.
- ◆ Provide support services for the academic, social, and emotional well-being of Dreamers.
- ◆ Organize campus-wide support & awareness programs for Dreamers.
- ◆ Facilitate the transfer process.

Source: Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education



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Initiatives for Undocumented Students at JJC

- ◆ Implemented a Campus-Wide Undocumented Student Taskforce.
- ◆ Developed Relevant Outreach Efforts & Informational Pamphlets.
 - ◆ Created an Undocumented Student Admissions Page.
www.jjc.edu/admissions/Pages/Undocumented.aspx
- ◆ Proposed new Residency Policy Language-“Dreamer” Friendly.
- ◆ Designated Multicultural Affairs as the undocumented liaison office.



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Initiatives for Undocumented Students at JJC

- ◆ Secured funding for Dreamers through leadership development.
- ◆ Partnered with ABE/ESL to better transition “Dreamers” to credit courses.
- ◆ Facilitated Transfer Process & connected students to 4-yr. college liaisons.
- ◆ Establishing an Undocumented Student Safe Zone Training-Fall 2014
- ◆ Developing an Undocumented Student Support Group-Fall 2014



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Admissions Process for Undocumented Students at USF

- ❖ Online/Paper Application
 - ❖ SSN
 - ❖ FAFSA Application
- ❖ Institutional Scholarships
 - ❖ Academic/Merit
 - ❖ Endowment Scholarships
- ❖ Finding the Financial Need

Finding the Financial Need for Undocumented Students at USF

- ❖ Institutional Need-Based Grants
 - ❖ Early Estimate Form/Paper VOIDED FAFSA
 - ❖ Prepare in Person for verification
 - ❖ Ask for tax information
 - ❖ Work with Financial Aid Liaison
- ❖ Proposing to not count MAP and Pell against the student

Creating an Inclusive Atmosphere for Undocumented Students at USF

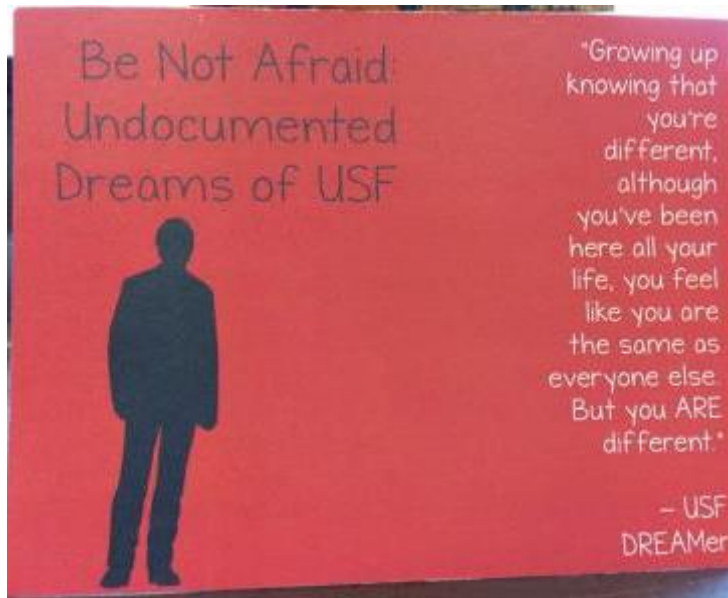
- ❖ Finding out if they are a DREAMer
 - ❖ “If you or if you know of someone that is a DREAMer....”
 - ❖ Including “regardless of status” in your everyday language
 - ❖ Say a story about DREAMers on your campus
- ❖ Using the hints
 - ❖ FAFSA
 - ❖ Emails about different procedures when they say NO to FAFSA

Educating Co-Workers about Undocumented Students at USF

- ❖ Department Support
 - ❖ Making sure Undocumented/any other group are a part of the conversation
 - ❖ Not Ostracising
- ❖ Questioning
 - ❖ Asking if this includes DREAMers
- ❖ Professional Development
 - ❖ Introducing DREAMers to the USF Community

Initiatives for DREAMer Students at USF

- ❖ H.O.U.S.E (Helping our Unprivileged Students Excel)
- ❖ Be Not Afraid: Undocumented Dreams of USF



Meet Our DREAMers!!



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